GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1545
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2007
FUNCTIONING OF TATA SKY
Singh Shri Prabhunath

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that TATA Sky is not exhibiting Delhi Aaj Tak, IBN7 and Rajya Sabha proceedings;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any action has been taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether TATA Sky is levying charges to view the international cricket matches;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(f) the details of complaints received by the Government against TATA Sky during each of the last three years, till date and the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(g) whether cable operators are authorised by the Government to use telephone and electric poles for the transmission of cable programme;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) if not, the action taken/proposed to be taken against the cable operators?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. DASMUNSI)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Direct to Home (DTH) has a constraint on Ku Band capacity due to limited transponder space and hence every channel can not be carried by the DTH licensee. M/s Tata Sky Ltd. has informed that they are currently carrying two channels from TV Today Group, namely Aaj Tak and Headlines Today and three channels from the Network 18 Group, namely CNN - IBN, CNBC - TV 18 & CNBC − Awaz. With respect to DD Rajya Sabha channel Tata Sky has informed that they were not clear on which channels are to be compulsorily carried by DTH operators as per clause 7.8 of the License agreement.

(c): A clarification has been issued on 26.11.2007 to Tata Sky regarding the channels to be compulsorily carried. It has been directed that DD Rajya Sabha channel be immediately included in DTH service.

(d) & (e): As informed by Tata Sky all Tata Sky subscribers get to watch the international cricket matches on DD National without paying anything extra for the same. Only the viewers who want to watch cricket with add-on interactive features like match highlights on demand, cricket trivia on demand etc. have the option to subscribe to the Sports Gold pack by paying a nominal charge, with costs about Rs. 17 on a monthly average.

(f): M/s Shanker Singhal Associates have complained against M/s Tata Sky Ltd. for violation of Art.7 of License agreement by providing Set Top Boxes of proprietary nature. M/s Tata Sky Ltd. has informed the STBs provided by them are interoperable via common Interface slot using Conditional Access Module (CAM) as per EN50221. Broadcast Engineer Consultant India Limited (BECIL) has been requested to inspect the STBs provided by the Licensee and furnish a report.

(g) to (i): Government does not authorize the cable operators for using telephone and electric poles for the transmission of cable programme. It is for the concerned civic authorities, electricity distribution agencies & telephone operators to grant such permissions and take action wherever required as per their rules/regulations.